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Fishing Season Predictions January, 1969

Maine Division of Information and Education

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Game

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FISHING SEASON PROSPECTUS, 1969

BY: RONALD T. SPEERS, COMMISSIONER
MAINE DEPARTMENT OF INLAND
FISHERIES AND GAME

WITH THE MEMORIES OF THE DEEP SNOWS OF LAST WINTER AND THE PROBLEMS WE'VE HAD WITH DOGS KILLING OUR DEER STILL STRONG IN MY MIND, IT'S HARD TO REALIZE THAT IT'S FISHING SEASON AGAIN. BUT FOR THE LAST FEW DAYS, EVERYONE HAS BEEN TALKING FISHING AND LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FIRST DAY AT THEIR FAVORITE POND OR STREAM.

WITH ALL THE WATER WE HAD LAST FALL AND THE HIGH WATER OF THIS SPRING, IT LOOKS AS IF WE SHOULD HAVE ANOTHER GREAT YEAR FOR MAINE ANGLERS.

LAST YEAR WE DID NOT STOCK MANY OF THE BROOKS AND STREAMS IN THE SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL PARTS OF THE STATE, AS WE HAD DONE IN YEARS PAST. NEVERTHELESS FISHERMEN GENERALLY FOUND THIS FISHING TO BE VERY GOOD IN THOSE AREAS, AND WE HAVE TO GIVE CREDIT TO THE WEATHER. WE PLAN, IN THE YEARS AHEAD, TO PLACE LESS EMPHASIS ON THE SO-CALLED "PUT AND TAKE" STOCKING. WHILE SUCH PRACTICES DO CREATE RECREATION, THEY CAN NOT TRULY BE CALLED IDEAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT, WHICH IS ONE OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THIS DEPARTMENT. WE WOULD PREFER TO SPEND MORE TIME, ENERGY, AND MONEY ON WORK WHICH PROVIDES SUSTAINED YIELD OF FISH, RATHER THAN PROVIDING JUST A FEW DAYS OF SPRING FISHING.

WE ARE, QUITE FRANKLY, HOPING TO DEVELOP BETTER WARM-WATER FISHING IN SOME OF THE PONDS WHICH HERETOFORE HAVE BEEN STOCKED WITH "PUT AND TAKE" TROUT. THIS WILL PROVIDE RECREATION WHICH IS CLOSE TO HOME AND ALLOW US TO PLACE EMPHASIS ON TROUT AND SALMON MANAGEMENT ON THOSE WATERS WHICH ARE NATURALLY SUITED FOR COLD-WATER FISH.

MORE

FISHING SEASON PROSPECTUS, 1969/ADD 1

LET'S LOOK BRIEFLY AT WHAT WE ARE DOING WITH SOME OF OUR MAINE FISH. THE LANDLOCKED SALMON, NEWLY NAMED AS OUR STATE FISH, IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY POPULAR WITH FISHERMEN. I THINK THAT THE LANDLOCK IS, AND ALWAYS HAS BEEN, OUR NATIVE ANSWER TO ALL OF THE EXOTIC FISH WITH WHICH SOME STATES ARE EXPERIMENTING. WE ARE GETTING GOOD SALMON FISHING - FAST FISHING IN MANY CASES - AND THE GROWTH OF THE LANDLOCKS IS EXCELLENT IN LAKES WHICH HAVE SUITABLE FORAGE SPECIES. WE ARE SUCCESSFULLY MANAGING MANY LAKES FOR BOTH SALMON AND TOGUE AND EXPECT THAT IN THE FUTURE, MORE MAINE LAKES WILL HAVE THAT COMBINATION. ALSO, WE'VE FOUND THAT MORE WATERS CAN SUPPORT SALMON THAN WE HAD PREVIOUSLY REALIZED.

POND RECLAMATION HAS TURNED INTO GOOD TROUT PONDS MANY WATERS WHICH HAD BECOME OVERRUN WITH LESS DESIRABLE FISH. WE EXPECT TO DO A FEW LARGER RECLAMATIONS IN THE FUTURE AND WORK WITH THOSE WATERS WHICH WE FEEL HAVE A REAL FUTURE AS TROUT PONDS. SOME THOUGHT IS BEING GIVEN TO RECLAIMING CERTAIN WATERS TO PERMIT INTENSIVE SALMON MANAGEMENT.

TOGUE ARE WORKING OUT VERY WELL IN MANY LAKES. ABOUT THE ONLY PROBLEM WE HAVE WITH THEM IS A LACK OF SUMMER TOGUE FISHERMEN. THE PRACTICE OF TROLLING DEEP WITH HEAVY TACKLE IS BECOMING MORE POPULAR, AS IS STILL FISHING. SO THERE ARE LOTS OF TOGUE TO BE CAUGHT BY THOSE WHO HAVE THE DESIRE AND KNOWLEDGE TO FISH FOR THEM.

THE ATLANTIC SALMON RESTORATION PROGRAM UP ON THE PENOBSCOT IS COMING ALONG VERY WELL, AND WE MAY, IN FACT, HAVE SOME FISHING THERE THIS SUMMER. THERE ARE OTHER SEA-RUN SALMON PROGRAMS UNDERWAY, AND THE FUTURE OF THAT GREAT SPECIES IS BRIGHT.

AS I MENTIONED EARLIER, WE ARE DOING MORE WORK ON WARM-WATER SPECIES, ESPECIALLY SMALLMOUTH BASS. THERE'S SOME GOOD SPORT TO BE HAD WITH BASS, AND MAINE PEOPLE ARE FINDING LOTS OF PLEASURE

MORE

FISHING SEASON PROSPECTUS, 1969/ADD 2

IN RUNNING OUT TO A BASS POND OR STREAM FOR A FEW HOURS AFTER SUPPER. WHILE MOST FOLKS ARE STILL TROUT AND SALMON FANS, HAVING SOME GOOD WARM-WATER FISHING NEARBY IS TOO GOOD TO PASS UP.

LAST FALL, WE TOOK SOME OF OUR RARE BLUEBACK AND SUNAPEE TROUT FOR CULTURAL PURPOSES AND HOPE TO EXPERIMENT WITH THESE SPECIES IN SEVERAL AREAS OF THE STATE. THEY ARE UNUSUAL NATIVE FISH WHICH SHOULD SPARK MUCH INTEREST.

WE ARE ALSO WORKING WITH THE PROPAGATION OF RAINBOW TROUT AND PLAN TO USE THEM IN SUITABLE PLACES TO ESTABLISH THIS FINE SPECIES.

THAT'S THE FISHING OUTLOOK FOR THE COMING SEASON. I HOPE MAINE ANGLERS HAVE A GOOD YEAR, AND WE'LL BE DOING OUR BEST TO INSURE THAT THE FISHING WILL BE THE BEST POSSIBLE THIS YEAR AND IN THE YEARS TO COME.

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///PREPARED 20MAR69///

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